



**January 3: Take a Tour Of Italy**

Arizona Toastmaster, David Archibald, enjoys his days pursuing his passion for travel, public speaking and photography. He is currently working on finishing his second book entitled, "Out My Door, a Memoir Travel Log." This informative book covers 30 countries he and Susan, his wife of 48 years, have traveled to and illustrated with photos. Join us as he takes us on their travels to Italy!

**January 10: Let's Go...Valley Metro—Navigating the Valley Metro Light Rail**

Valley Metro plans, develops and operates the regional bus and light rail systems in the Phoenix/Mesa metropolitan area in order to connect communities and enhance lives. Have you wanted to use the Valley Metro Transit System but didn't know where to start? Do you have concerns such as where do I board, will my mobility aid fit, will I get lost, how much does it cost, where can I visit? Join Valley Metro Education & Outreach Director, Delores Nolan, for an overview of the system. Bring your questions!

**January 17: Israel: "The First 20 Years"**

The birth of the new nation of Israel in May 1948 was greeted with bullets and bombs. In the first twenty years the Israelis had to defend themselves in major wars three times, besides being subject to terrorist attacks on their civilians. But they continued to develop the land, to receive immigrants and to build communities. A people who had waited almost two millennia to return to their ancestral home and who had been decimated in the 1940s became a vital part of the world community. VO Resident, Herb Sturhahn, will tell the story of the heroes and villains who were involved in this saga.

**January 24: Life after 12 news...with Lin Sue Cooney**

Instead of connecting our community to the latest broadcast headlines, Lin Sue Cooney now connects families with the compassionate services offered by one of the largest not for profit hospices in the nation. After 31 years as a newscaster at 12 News, she became the Director of Community Engagement for Hospice of The Valley. She will share with us stories from her life on Channel 12 and her passion and commitment for helping others.

**January 31: "Trapped With Ms. Arias" by Kirk Nurmi**

On June 4, 2008, Travis Victor Alexander was murdered by his ex-girlfriend, Jodi Ann Arias, in his house in Mesa, Arizona. The State of Arizona vs. Jodi Arias case became a media sensation and a world-wide phenomenon. Have you ever wondered what happened before the trial began? What it was like to deal with Ms. Arias when the cameras weren't rolling? Kirk Nurmi, the court-appointed attorney who represented Ms. Arias, knows first hand and comes to Venture Out to tell his story. (Ticket required)

**February 7: Dunkirk and Darkest Hour (Based Upon The 2017 Movies)**

In 1940, during the Battle of France, Allied soldiers retreated to Dunkirk to await evacuation. Colonel James Evans, CAF (US Air Force Retired), of the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa will discuss Dunkirk and how the French, British, Belgian and Dutch soldiers were safely evacuated from the beaches after Germany invaded France during World War II.

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### **February 14: Bring The Love**

To truly usher in the romantic vibes that, like cupid's arrow, go straight to your lover's heart, it's going to take more than just chocolates and flowers. Whether you've been married for years or the sparks are just beginning to fly, give each other the gift of coming together to this seminar. Love has a language. How fluent are you in your partner's love lingo?

### **February 21: Journey to North Vietnam**

VO Resident, Rene Moquin, will share his latest journey to North Vietnam. Through volunteering abroad with Global Volunteers, Rene has installed wells in remote villages in Africa and taught conversational English in China, Poland, Cuba, Africa and Vietnam. Today he will discuss the culture, food and traditions of the Vietnamese people.

### **February 28: A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words**

We have ALL wondered why the photo we took didn't look anything like what we thought it would. Wouldn't it be great if we could learn to consistently take better photographs? You bet you can! Learn the basic principles and elements needed for capturing the photos you've always envisioned. Tom Klare, professional photographer, Mesa Community College professor and Arizona Highways Photoscape instructor will teach you how! All skill level photographers and camera types are welcome.

### **March 6: X marks the spot!**

There are millions of *geocaches* hidden around the world—there are probably some near you right now. You are probably asking yourself, “what is a geocache and what is geocaching?” Simply put, geocaching is the world's largest hunting game. A geocache is the hidden “treasure” you are challenged to find by using GPS coordinates. Local geocacher, John “JustFindingOurWay” Schroeder will teach and inspire you to join this game of discovery and exploration called GEOCACHING! Why not get started today?

### **March 13: The History and Mystery of the Superstition Mountains**

Nowhere in the entire United States is there an area full of legend, history and intrigue as the rugged 160,000 acre Superstition Mountain range in the Tonto National Forest in Central Arizona. Docent and Board member, Jeff Chebegia of the Superstition Mountain Museum in Apache Junction will share stories and legends of the mysterious and legendary Superstition Mountains.

### **March 20: Reflections: What Do You Think You Know about our Native American neighbors?**

Perhaps no group of people has quite the rich and storied history and culture as those of the Native Americans. We will begin our reflection in dialogue with Kristine Firethunder— Director of Tribal Relations for the Governor's Office. Bring your questions and your thirst for knowledge, as we embark on a journey of discovery. At the conclusion, you will gain a renewed self awareness and the basic interpersonal communication skills to navigate and interact with our Native American neighbors.

### **March 27: The Desert Dozen**

Many birds of the desert are familiar, but both misidentified and misunderstood. This seminar, conducted by Kathe Anderson, an active volunteer for various Audubon societies and other conservation organizations will focus on a dozen of our common species, including the whimsical and popular Gambel's quail; the noisy mockingbird; ubiquitous Anna's hummingbird and mourning dove. She'll also discuss the invasive city pigeon, European starling, great-tailed grackle and house sparrow. Find out which bird is a medal-winner, which is a real estate developer and which is on the Audubon watch-list for declining populations.